

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



Happy Holidays! If you are looking for something fun to do with your family, friends, and out-of-town guests this holiday season, you might enjoy the inaugural Panthers in the Park Ice Skating Rink, where you can skate on real ice in Downtown Fort Lauderdale! Located at Huizenga Plaza (E Las Olas Boulevard and S Andrews Avenue) and in partnership with the Florida Panthers, Hoffman's Chocolates, and the City of Fort Lauderdale, the Panthers in the Park Ice Skating Rink is open through Jan. 8, 2017. Take a walk through Hoffman's Chocolates' enchanting holiday light display, which includes a Christmas tree, and you can purchase sweet treats from Hoffman's food truck, "The Sweet Ride." For details and hours of operation, please visit <https://www.nhl.com/panthers/community/panthersinthepark>.

Holiday Solid Waste Services Schedule – Sanitation collections (trash, recycling, yard waste) will not be impacted during this holiday season, with the exception of bulk pick-up. Bulk pick-up has been cancelled for Monday, Dec. 26, 2016. The make-up day for bulk pick-up will be Thursday, Dec. 29, 2016.

SE 17th Street Mobility Plan – The third and final public workshop on the SE 17th Street Mobility Plan was held on Dec. 14. The City is accepting public comments through Dec. 31, 2016, on the recommendations. To review the plan and make comments, log on to <http://maps.kittelson.com/17thstreet>.

Building Permit Tracker – The City's new Building Permit Tracker GIS web map application is now available. This tool provides easy access, by either a desktop or mobile device, to valuable building permit based information, such as type of permit, status, application date, and more. You can access permits by searching addresses, permit numbers, parcel IDs, neighborhoods, or Commission Districts to view and print maps, measure distances, and create spreadsheet reports. I would encourage you to use this important resource, which is accessible through <http://gis.fortlauderdale.gov/BuildingPermitTracker/>.

Fire Station 8 Update – The City Commission met with the Fire-Rescue Facilities Bond Issue Blue Ribbon Committee on Nov. 29, to discuss a number of issues, including the proposed location of Fire Station 8 at 1717 SW First Avenue. This site, approved by the City on Aug. 15, would be adjacent to the future WAVE Streetcar maintenance yard. It was agreed that the Committee and the City would look for alternate sites for this fire station, and recommendations are due back to the Commission on or before March 31, 2017. If no suitable site can be found, the station will be built where proposed and approved. In addition, we will be examining the feasibility of building satellite substations to serve our Rio Vista and Las Olas Isles neighbors more efficiently and effectively. The workshop video is at http://fortlauderdale.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=636.

Volunteers Needed at Tax Time – The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program provides FREE tax preparation services for individuals and/or households with an income of less than \$54,000. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and are asked to commit four hours per week from Jan. 10 to April 15. Free training is provided and no experience is necessary. For details, contact 954-828-5411 or willieb@fortlauderdale.gov.

For The Calendar –

- **Kwanzaa Nia set for Dec. 30** – Pay homage to the fifth day of Kwanzaa Nia, which means "Purpose," from 2 – 5 PM on Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, at Bass Park, 2750 NW 19 Street. Nia is a day for reviewing our purpose for living and dedicating ourselves to restoring our communities to greatness. Join us for some Afrocentric entertainment and festivities.
- **Fort Lauderdale Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown** – Saturday, Dec. 31, 2016, 3:30 PM - 1 AM, SW 2 Street/SW 5 Avenue
- **Hazardous Waste and Electronics Drop-off Events** – Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017, 9 AM - 2 PM, Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9 Avenue. Proof of Fort Lauderdale residency is required. For details, visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/hhw>.
- **United Day** – Fort Lauderdale's next major service day, "United Day," will be held from 9 AM - Noon on Monday, Jan. 16, which coincides with the City's observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.
- **Neighbor Support Night 2017** – Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2017, 5:30 - 8 PM, Fort Lauderdale City Hall, 100 N Andrews Avenue. The event includes a free tree giveaway, with proof of residency and while supplies last.

➤ My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 4 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). To schedule a meeting or sign up to receive this newsletter and other information about what's going on in the City, contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.